# Labour Market Bulletin

## Quebec

## April 2018

This Labour Market Bulletin provides an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for the province of Quebec and its regions.

## OVERVIEW

The latest estimates from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey indicate that the Quebec labour market saw a slight employment decline in April 2018. In total, 13,800 jobs were lost in comparison to last month, amounting to a 0.3% decrease. Gains in part-time employment (+7,800 or +1.0%) were not sufficient to offset the losses in full-time employment (-21,500 jobs or -0.6%). This employment decline affected self-employed and public sector workers, while employment for private sector workers remained virtually unchanged. In comparison, employment changed little in Ontario (+0.1%) and remained stable in Canada as a whole.

On a yearly basis however, results remained positive for Quebec, with employment gains of 1.7% (+72,800 jobs) since April 2017, which were entirely attributable to salaried employment. The strong increase in full-time employment (+143,100 jobs) easily exceeded the decline in part-time employment -70,300 jobs). Since the number of workers grew at a faster pace than the working-age population, the employment rate rose by 0.6 percentage point and reached 61.2%. A similar trend was observed in Ontario and in Canada as a whole over the past year, where employment growth reached 1.9% and 1.5%, respectively.

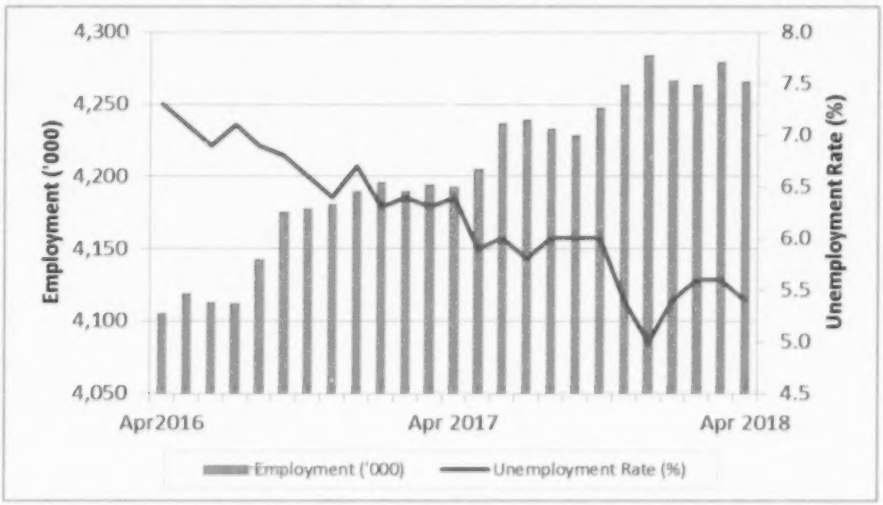
**Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics**

| Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data | April 2018 | March 2018 | April 2017 | Monthly Variation | | Yearly Variation | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Number | % | Number | % |
| **Population 15 + ('000)** | 6,970.9 | 6,964.8 | 6,920.2 | 6.1 | 0.1 | 50.7 | 0.7 |
| **Labour Force ('000)** | 4,508.3 | 4,531.1 | 4,480.3 | -22.8 | -0.5 | 28.0 | 0.6 |
| **Employment ('000)** | 4,265.8 | 4,279.6 | 4,193.0 | -13.8 | -0.3 | 72.8 | 1.7 |
| Full-Time ('000) | 3,493.5 | 3,515.0 | 3,350.4 | -21.5 | -0.6 | 143.1 | 4.3 |
| Part-Time ('000) | 772.4 | 764.6 | 842.7 | 7.8 | 1.0 | -70.3 | -8.3 |
| **Unemployment ('000)** | 242.5 | 251.5 | 287.3 | -9.0 | -3.6 | -44.8 | -15.6 |
| **Unemployment Rate (%)** | 5.4 | 5.6 | 6.4 | -0.2 | - | -1.0 | - |
| **Participation Rate (%)** | 64.7 | 65.1 | 64.7 | -0.4 | - | 0.0 | - |
| **Employment Rate (%)** | 61.2 | 61.4 | 60.6 | -0.2 | - | 0.6 | - |

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding*

*Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087*

**Quebec Monthly Employment and Unemployment Rate**




The participation rate has diminished (-0.4 percentage point) in Quebec since last month, as the labour force decreased slightly while the working-age population remained relatively stable. However, this rate has remained stable (64.7%) over the past twelve months, because the pace of growth of the labour force was similar to that of the working-age population.

The number of unemployed people decreased by 9,000 since last month, a 3.6% drop. This decline, combined with a slowdown in the growth of the labour force, allowed the unemployment rate to fall by 0.2 percentage point and reach 5.4%, a level which remains historically low. Since the decline in the number of unemployed people (-3.6%) was more significant than that of the labour force (-0.5%), both employment and the unemployment rate fell simultaneously in April 2018, in comparison to the previous month. On a yearly basis, the trend remains the same, but the gaps are more significant. It is worth noting that Quebec had 44,800 fewer unemployed people in April 2018 than in April 2018, the result of a significant, 15.6% decline over one year. Such a decrease in the number of unemployed people, within a slowly growing labour force, allowed the unemployment rate to fall by 1.0 percentage point. Except for workers aged 55 and over, all other age groups benefited from the decline of the unemployment rate over the past year. However, the most significant variation was observed for the 25-54 age group (-1.5 percentage point), bringing down the unemployment rate for this group to 4.4%.

**Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age**

| Seasonally Adjusted Data | April 2018 | March 2018 | April 2017 | Monthly Variation | Yearly Variation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | % | % | % | (% points) | (% points) |
| **Total** | 5.4 | 5.6 | 6.4 | -0.2 | -1.0 |
| **25 years and over** | 4.7 | 4.9 | 5.8 | -0.2 | -1.1 |
| Men - 25 years and over | 5.2 | 5.2 | 6.3 | 0.0 | -1.1 |
| Women - 25 years and over | 4.2 | 4.6 | 5.2 | -0.4 | -1.0 |
| **15 to 24 years** | 9.6 | 9.8 | 10.4 | -0.2 | -0.8 |
| Men - 15 to 24 years | 11.1 | 11.0 | 11.5 | 0.1 | -0.4 |
| Women - 15 to 24 years | 8.0 | 8.7 | 9.2 | -0.7 | -1.2 |

*Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087*

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

On an industrial basis, employment in the goods-producing sector fell by 0.8%, amounting to a loss of 7,000 jobs since March 2018. The construction (-2.2%) and manufacturing (-0.3%) sectors both registered employment decreases. On a yearly basis, the situation is somewhat different. The goods-producing sector posted a 0.6% employment growth (+5,000 jobs). The majority of jobs created since April 2017 came from construction, and from the forestry, fishing, mining and quarrying sector.

The service sector lost 6,700 jobs (-0.2%) in comparison to last month. To the exception of a few industries (accommodation and food services, professional, scientific and technical services, business services, building and other support services, as well as healthcare and social services), all other industries saw workforce decreases. However, the opposite trend was seen on a yearly basis. The service sector benefited from a 2.0% growth, representing a total of 67,800 jobs created over the past twelve months. Most industries of the sector contributed to this growth. The following sectors benefited from the upturn: healthcare and social assistance, transportation and warehousing, as well as other services, including repair and personal services.

**Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry**

| Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000) | April 2018 | March 2018 | April 2017 | Monthly Variation | | Yearly Variation | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Number | % | Number | % |
| **Total employed, all industries** | 4,265.8 | 4,279.6 | 4,193.0 | -13.8 | -0.3 | 72.8 | 1.7 |
| **Goods-producing sector** | 854.1 | 861.1 | 849.1 | -7.0 | -0.8 | 5.0 | 0.6 |
| Agriculture | 53.7 | 55.2 | 56.2 | -1.5 | -2.7 | -2.5 | -4.4 |
| Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas | 38.4 | 37.1 | 34.3 | 1.3 | 3.5 | 4.1 | 12.0 |
| Utilities | 24.5 | 24.4 | 25.5 | 0.1 | 0.4 | -1.0 | -3.9 |
| Construction | 249.0 | 254.5 | 244.7 | -5.5 | -2.2 | 4.3 | 1.8 |
| Manufacturing | 488.6 | 489.9 | 488.4 | -1.3 | -0.3 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| **Services-producing sector** | 3,411.8 | 3,418.5 | 3,344.0 | -6.7 | -0.2 | 67.8 | 2.0 |
| Trade | 659.0 | 664.6 | 672.2 | -5.6 | -0.8 | -13.2 | -2.0 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 218.2 | 221.4 | 200.3 | -3.2 | -1.4 | 17.9 | 8.9 |
| Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing | 230.1 | 238.9 | 231.8 | -8.8 | -3.7 | -1.7 | -0.7 |
| Professional, scientific and technical services | 326.5 | 320.9 | 322.6 | 5.6 | 1.7 | 3.9 | 1.2 |
| Business, building and other support services | 190.9 | 185.3 | 179.5 | 5.6 | 3.0 | 11.4 | 6.4 |
| Educational services | 296.0 | 299.2 | 292.6 | -3.2 | -1.1 | 3.4 | 1.2 |
| Health care and social assistance | 597.2 | 592.2 | 568.3 | 5.0 | 0.8 | 28.9 | 5.1 |
| Information, culture and recreation | 180.9 | 182.1 | 188.4 | -1.2 | -0.7 | -7.5 | -4.0 |
| Accommodation and food services | 280.2 | 273.6 | 270.8 | 6.6 | 2.4 | 9.4 | 3.5 |
| Other services | 182.5 | 184.0 | 169.7 | -1.5 | -0.8 | 12.8 | 7.5 |
| Public administration | 250.4 | 256.4 | 247.8 | -6.0 | -2.3 | 2.6 | 1.0 |

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding*

*Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0088*

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Taking into account seasonally unadjusted data (3-month moving averages), most economic regions saw an improvement in employment over the past year. The highest growth was observed in Laval (+12.9%). At the same time, the number of workers decreased in the following regions: Laurentides (-5.8%), Mauricie (-5.8%), Centre-du-Québec (-4.7%) and Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine (-0.3%).

Still in comparison to April 2017, unemployment rates fell in most economic regions in Quebec. The most significant decreases were seen in the Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec region (-2.2 percentage points) and Chaudière-Appalaches region (-1.8 percentage points). Only the following regions saw an increase in their unemployment rate: Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Bas-Saint-Laurent and Lanaudière, where the rate rose from 14.1% to 15.8%, from 7.4% to 7.7% and from 6.7% to 6.8%, respectively.

**Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region**

| 3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data | Employment | | | Unemployment Rate | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | April 2018 ('000) | April 2017 ('000) | Yearly Variation (%) | April 2018 (%) | April 2017 (%) | Yearly Variation (% points) |
| **Quebec** | 4,198.2 | 4,114.0 | 2.0 | 6.1 | 7.1 | -1.0 |
| **Economic Regions** | | | | | | |
| Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine | 35.2 | 35.3 | -0.3 | 15.8 | 14.1 | 1.7 |
| Bas-Saint-Laurent | 87.8 | 86.0 | 2.1 | 7.7 | 7.4 | 0.3 |
| Capitale-Nationale | 404.5 | 396.7 | 2.0 | 4.4 | 5.7 | -1.3 |
| Chaudière-Appalaches | 217.9 | 210.8 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 5.3 | -1.8 |
| Estrie | 155.4 | 150.8 | 3.1 | 5.8 | 6.6 | -0.8 |
| Centre-du-Québec | 110.5 | 115.9 | -4.7 | 6.4 | 7.3 | -0.9 |
| Montérégie | 814.9 | 790.7 | 3.1 | 4.8 | 5.6 | -0.8 |
| Montréal | 1,030.0 | 1,006.7 | 2.3 | 7.5 | 9.0 | -1.5 |
| Laval | 235.7 | 208.8 | 12.9 | 5.6 | 6.4 | -0.8 |
| Lanaudière | 254.4 | 248.4 | 2.4 | 6.8 | 6.7 | 0.1 |
| Laurentides | 286.2 | 303.9 | -5.8 | 6.6 | 7.2 | -0.6 |
| Outaouais | 201.0 | 196.0 | 2.6 | 6.0 | 6.4 | -0.4 |
| Abitibi-Témiscamingue | 77.3 | 73.2 | 5.6 | 4.7 | 5.8 | -1.1 |
| Mauricie | 109.0 | 115.7 | -5.8 | 7.4 | 8.0 | -0.6 |
| Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean | 124.1 | 121.6 | 2.1 | 7.5 | 9.2 | -1.7 |
| Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec | 54.3 | 53.5 | 1.5 | 5.9 | 8.1 | -2.2 |

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding*

*Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0122*

***Note:*** *In preparing this document, the authors have taken care to provide clients with labour market information that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here may have changed since this document was published. Users are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this document does not necessarily reflect official policies of Employment and Social Development Canada.*

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***For information on the Labour Force Survey**, please visit the Statistics Canada website at:*
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